

# Commission Notes



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for more information, visit [www.in.gov/iac/](http://www.in.gov/iac/)

## Governor O'Bannon proclaims October Arts & Humanities month

Joining governors, mayors and other public officials across the country, Indiana Governor Frank O'Bannon officially proclaimed October as National Arts and Humanities Month in Indiana.

"The arts and humanities not only provide thousands of jobs in Indiana, they contribute to economic development, cultural tourism, community revitalization, historic preservation, and excellence in education," Governor O'Bannon said. "The arts and humanities bring people together by improving quality of life, building community, enriching human understanding and connecting people of diverse cultures. Today, our world needs more of these opportunities for common understanding."

National Arts and Humanities Month is a coast-to-coast, collective celebration of art, culture, civil society, and heritage in America. Sponsored by Americans for the Arts (AFTA), it has become the

largest annual celebration of the arts and humanities in the nation. This year, AFTA encourages heightened awareness of the important role the arts and humanities play in education.

"National studies have shown the students involved in curriculums that include opportunities to experience the arts and humanities are four times more likely to excel academically," said Dorothy L. Ilgen, executive director of the Indiana Arts Commission (IAC). "Beyond academic achievement, these students also develop skills in creative problem solving, team building, communication, and goal-setting that are highly valued in today's global economy."

The IAC and the Indiana Humanities Council (IHC) join in recognizing arts and humanities month in Indiana, and encourage all Hoosier families to partake in activities and events offered through Indiana's arts organizations, museums, historic landmarks, libraries, book festivals and other cultural events and activities.

"The Indiana Humanities Council is pleased to join our state arts commission

in celebrating arts and humanities month," said Dr. Scott T. Massey, president and CEO of the Council. "The humanities provide 70% of the core curriculum in schools; 60% of Indiana's ISTEP standards; and 70% of the college entrance exams come from the liberal arts and humanities. Clearly, strong instruction in the humanities is critical to student achievement and the development of skills needed in today's fast-paced, knowledge-focused world. The IHC Smart Desktop <sup>tm</sup>, a newly developed initiative with funding support from the Indiana Arts Commission, will help teachers, students, and parents around the state to increase academic achievement."

For more information on Arts and Humanities Month, visit: [www.in.gov/iac/](http://www.in.gov/iac/)



## Smart Desktop program unveiled at arts conference

What if Hoosier educators, students, parents and other education stakeholders had the opportunity to analyze education information; access standards-aligned, humanities-rich resources; and work together to improve instruction and student learning?

Such an opportunity is close at hand with Smart Desktop <sup>tm</sup>, a new Web-based initiative from the Indiana Humanities Council. A prototype of the program was unveiled October 11 at the Community Arts Conference in Muncie.

Developed with grant funding support from the Indiana Arts Commission, Smart Desktop is an on-line service designed for and by teachers based on successful businesses software models.

When fully operational, the desktop program will enable teachers to view student classroom-based assessment data, identify areas of need that will automatically be linked to resources that can be used within the lesson design tool.

IHC expects beta testing of the program in Spring 2003.

## President to appoint poet as new NEA chair

As we go to press, President Bush announced this intention to nominate poet, critic and educator Dana Gioia as the next chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

Gioia (pronounced JOY-uh), 51, is perhaps best known for his book *Can Poetry Matter?*, about the role of poetry in contemporary culture.

A longtime cultural commentator for BBC Radio, Gioia has also taught as a visiting writer.

## Minnesota gallery to feature works by IAC commissioner Cruse-Griffin

In addition to being an arts educator and a board member of the Indiana Arts Commission, India Cruse-Griffin, Richmond, is an accomplished artist.

Early next year, her work will be featured in a solo exhibition at the Kellie Rae Theiss Gallery in Minneapolis.

After the seven-week show, Griffin will become one of the featured artists at the gallery, which is located in a renovated warehouse district of Minneapolis. The gallery has been featured in such national publications

as Art News.

"Being my first gallery show, I'm really looking forward to the experience," Cruse-Griffin said. "The show will include one of my favorite paintings, 'Bluebells, Cockle shells, easy ivy over,' which depicts my childhood friends jumping rope as we often did."



*"Bluebells, Cockle shells, easy ivy over," by India Cruse-Griffin*

The exhibition begins January 24.  
Visit: [www.kellieraetheissgallery.com](http://www.kellieraetheissgallery.com)

for more information on the show, and the gallery.

## IAP grant recipient shares African experiences with his Hoosier hometown

It is a long journey from Jay County Indiana to the impoverished and war-torn African nation of Biafra. Yet it is a journey that Hoosier photojournalist John Sherman will share Saturday, November 2 with residents in his former hometown of Portland.



*"Kids" by John Sherman*

The author of *"Taos: A Pictorial History,"* and *"Marjorie Main: Rural Documentary Poetry,"* Sherman will greet visitors and sign copies of his books at Goodrich Hall beginning at 10 a.m..

His latest book, *"War Stories: A Memoir of Nigeria and Biafra,"* chronicles what Sherman expected to be two peaceful years of service with the Peace Corps. Instead, he wrote about and photographed images of civil war.

Funding for the completion and promotion of this book was provided, in part, by an Individual Artist Project grant from the IAC.

Driving the arts  
in Indiana



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## Individual Artists Project guidelines now available

Individual artists living and working in Indiana have until February 3, 2003 to submit application materials for grants through the IAC's Individual Artist Project (IAP) grant program.

The IAP grant program is design to assist individual artists with specific project related costs for programs or services that reach the public.

Artists may apply for up to \$1,000 and no matching funds are required from the artist. Applicants must be 18 years of age, must not be enrolled in a degree program, must be a resident of Indiana for at least one year prior to the date of application, and plan to remain a resident of Indiana for the full grant period.

All projects must be completed between July 1, 2003 and June 30, 2004.

For more information, and to view the complete grant guidelines on-line, visit: [www.in.gov/arts](http://www.in.gov/arts). Grant guidelines are also available upon request in print form and on diskette by contacting the IAC office at 317-232-1268.